

# Introductory Sociology

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## Description of the Examination

The Subject Examination in Introductory Sociology covers material usually taught in a one-term introductory sociology course at most colleges and universities. Exam questions deal with social institutions; stratification; social patterns, processes, and changes; and the sociological perspective.

The exam emphasizes basic facts and concepts as well as general theoretical approaches used by sociologists. Highly specialized knowledge of the subject and methodology of the discipline is not included.

The exam is composed of approximately 100 multiple-choice questions to be answered in two separately timed 45-minute sections.

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## Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the exam require candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Identification of specific names, facts, and concepts from sociological literature
- Understanding of relationships between concepts, empirical generalizations, and theoretical propositions of sociology
- Understanding of the methods by which sociological relationships are established
- Application of concepts, propositions, and methods to hypothetical situations
- Interpretation of tables and charts

The subject matter of the Introductory Sociology exam is drawn from the following topics.

### Approximate Percent of Examination

20%	<a href="#">Institutions</a>
30%	<a href="#">Social stratification</a> (process and structure)
15%	<a href="#">Social patterns</a>
20%	<a href="#">Social processes</a>
15%	<a href="#">The sociological perspective</a>

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### Approximate Percent of Examination

20%	<b>Institutions</b>
	Family
	Economic
	Political
	Educational
	Religious

Criminal justice  
Medicine  
Communications/Mass media

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<b>30%</b>	<b>Social stratification (process and structure)</b> Social mobility Social class Power and social inequality Professions and occupations Race and ethnic relations Gender roles Aging in society Global inequality
<b>15%</b>	<b>Social patterns</b> Community Demography Human ecology Rural-urban patterns
<b>20%</b>	<b>Social processes</b> Roles Groups Aggregates Deviance and social control Social change Collective behavior Socialization Culture
<b>15%</b>	<b>The sociological perspective</b> History of sociology Methods and measurement Sociological theory (classical; contemporary)

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## Study Resources

Visit your local college bookstore to determine which textbooks are used by the college for introductory sociology courses. You should read two or three textbooks because authors tend to emphasize different areas. When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the "Knowledge and Skills Required" section.

As you read, take notes that address the following issues, which are fundamental to most questions that appear on the test.

- What is society? What is culture? What is common to all societies, and what is characteristic of American society?

- What are other basic concepts in sociology that help to describe human nature, human interaction, and the collective behavior of groups, organizations, institutions, and societies?

What methods do sociologists use to study, describe, analyze, and observe human behavior?